New Jersey News

Robert E. Best Obituary-June 30, 2024

With heavy hearts, we announce the death of Robert E. Best of Hackettstown, New Jersey, born in Newton, New Jersey, who passed away on June 30, 2024 at the age of 89.

As we bid farewell to this luminous soul, let his loved ones carry forward the torch of his memory, illuminating the path ahead with the warmth of his love and the brilliance of his spirit. Though Robert E. may journey beyond the horizon of our sight, his essence remains woven into the very fabric of our being — a guiding light in the darkness, a beacon of hope in the night.

Bobby Best made these observations on Facebook about his dad "It is with great sadness and heavy heart that I have to share with all that my Dad passed this morning. He spent 89 full years on this Earth but has now gone to be with my mother and sister in heaven. He taught me how to be a farmer but way more importantly how to be a man. I will miss him every day as he will also be missed by so many. Cochran Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements thank you to all in advance for your prayers and well wishes God Bless"

Bob Best was an outstanding fruit grower, one of the best in the Northeast. He was an early adopter of chemical thinning of apples with Plant Growth Regulators (PGRS). He taught many of us how to get started using PGRS over 45 years ago. Bob was a master pruner of apples and peaches, he loved his trees. He opened his farm to numerous twilight fruit meetings sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension, to teach other farmers the latest in Pomology. Numerous research experiments were conducted at his orchard, including developing new PGR materials for chemical thinning including Promalin, Maxcel, Vydate and more. He was proud of

Two good friends have now passed- Bob Best Senior with his long term friend and mentor, Ernie Crist. Photo Credit Win Cowgill.

having worked with Professors and researchers at the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station since the 1950's, especially Ernie Crist and Norm Childers. We would often sit and reminisce about these great men that he had worked with on his farm. His mind was sharp as a tack to the very end. We sat and talked a few weeks before he passed and discussed some of the articles from the Good Fruit Grower Magazine. Bob was active in the New Jersey State Horticultural Society and was awarded the New Jersey State Horticultural Society Outstanding Fruit Grower Award in 1989. Bob Best was a great friend and mentor to many, he will be missed.

He was predeceased by his father Ernest; his birth mother Agnes; his stepmother Dorothy; his wife Ruth; and his daughter Kim.

He is survived by his son Robert Best, Jr.; and his grandchildren, Heather Best, Justin (Jamie Best) and Rachael (George Binns). He is also survived by 6 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Memorial & Honor Program, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942, http://www.stjude.org. in his honor.

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